

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-71. (Canceled)

72. (Currently Amended) A method for negotiating over a wide-area network through an intermediary subsystem between a customer and a manufacturer-licensed seller a purchase of a product having multiple configurations characterized by multiple product attributes, comprising:

receiving at ~~a networked~~ the intermediary subsystem a customer-defined product configuration description having a general product indication and a set of product attributes, the set including a ranking from among multiple, hierarchical tiers of ranks for each attribute to indicate a discrete level of willingness of the customer to negotiate a modification of the particular attribute;

determining a qualification of the customer to transact the purchase;

comparing the customer-defined product configuration to available configurations indicated in an electronic product database stored on a network device to determine a seller having the general product with a set of product attributes at least comparable to the customer-defined set of product attributes, based on the ranking indicated for each attribute;

generating at the intermediary subsystem and transmitting from the intermediary subsystem a request for quote (RFQ) individually identified with an identification number for the customer-defined product configuration to a networked subsystem of the seller determined to have the general product with the set of comparable attributes;

receiving at the intermediary from the seller subsystem a quote indicating a price and a product attribute modification to propose to the customer a product configuration comparable to the customer-defined product configuration; and

indicating the quote to the customer.

73. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 72, wherein determining the qualification of the customer to transact the purchase comprises determining a maximum purchase capacity of the customer with respect to the product.

74. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 72, wherein the ranking to indicate a level of willingness of the customer to negotiate a modification with respect to each attribute comprises ~~at least a discrete~~ a level of willingness on a scale of one to five, with a one being lowest priority and a five being highest priority, by the customer to negotiate a modification of an attribute.

75. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 74, wherein determining the seller having the general product with the set of product attributes at least comparable to the customer-defined set of product attributes comprises determining the seller has the general product with a set of product attributes including a high percentage of the attributes for which the customer indicates a higher priority, or a low level of willingness to negotiate a modification.

76. (New) A method according to claim 72, wherein receiving the quote indicating the price and the product attribute modification comprises receiving a quote indicating a product attribute modification for a particular product attribute for which the customer indicated a high level of willingness to negotiate.